

3/21

Sharon Dorne
Member of the Board
One Standard of Justice
(203) 680-0567

PO Box 461
New Canaan, Ct 06840



www.OneStandardOfJustice.org

OSJ believes any sexual offense is one too many. We advocate on behalf of people convicted of sexual offenses. We support creating safer communities through rational, evidence-based criminal justice reform, prevention of sexual harm, and healing through restorative justice.

Testimony before the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing on 3/25/2022

Support SB 459 – *An Act Concerning the Commission for Correctional Oversight, the Use of Isolated Confinement, Seclusion, Restraints, Strip Searches, Social Contracts for Incarcerated Persons, Transparency for Conditions of Incarceration and Correctional Officer Training*

Support with Qualification SB 460 – *An Act Concerning Compassionate or Medical Parole and Credits Earned for Release During an Emergency Declaration*

Support HB 5390 – *An Act Repealing Statutory Provisions that Impose Liability on an Individual for Repayment of Costs Incurred When the Individual Was Incarcerated*

To all esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

One Standard of Justice, is an organization that stands up for fair and equitable treatment of those in our community burdened with the greatest stigma and injustice. We demand that those who have committed sexual offenses, as well as the survivors of those offenses, be allowed to benefit from best practices based on sound research and democratic principles.

OSJ supports the following bills. Taken together, these bills express this State's commitment to the humane treatment of the incarcerated population in its care, and to helps returning populations more quickly integrate into their communities.

SB 459 – *An Act Concerning the Commission for Correctional Oversight, the Use of Isolated Confinement, Seclusion, Restraints, Strip Searches, Social Contracts for Incarcerated Persons, Transparency for Conditions of Incarceration and Correctional Officer Training*

SB 459 provides critical guidance and oversight to the most extreme punitive practices employed by the Department of Corrections. Left unchecked, these practices inflict permanent mental and physical harm, and work against long term goals of reintegrating returning populations.

SB 460* – *An Act Concerning Compassionate or Medical Parole and Credits Earned for Release During an Emergency Declaration*

SB 460 allows for medical and compassionate release to parole. As mandatory sentencing requirements have increased the number of elderly and feeble incarcerated individuals, the State needs to recognize the reduced threat that these individuals pose and return them to their families as they face end of life.

OSJ does not support exclusions of any type/classification of offense as the type of offense does not reflect a person's risk to public safety.

HB 5390 – *An Act Repealing Statutory Provisions that Impose Liability on an Individual for Repayment of Costs Incurred When the Individual Was Incarcerated*

HB 5390 recognizes the fragile financial state of returning populations and eliminates the intrusive and damaging policy of assessing liens on earnings and inheritance. Charging people who were formerly incarcerated for their incarceration is a draconian practice which has ended in most other states.

We urge the committee to vote to advance the above bills.

Thank you for your time.